TARGET LOCATION, DESIGNATION AND HAND-OFF SYSTEM (TLDHS)

DESCRIPTION

The Target Location, Designation and Hand-off System (TLDHS) is a Joint Fires /Combined Arms tool. It is the first system within Department of Defense to be approved for fielding that allows observers to control Close Air Support (CAS), Artillery and Naval Gunfire missions on a single system using digital communications. TLDHS is a modular, man-portable equipment suite that provides the ability to quickly acquire targets in day, night, and near-all weather visibility conditions.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

The system enables the user to perform target acquisition, coordinate refinement, and target hand-off to fire support agencies using existing and planned communications equipment. Operators are able to accurately determine and display their own location and the location of friendly forces as well as the location of targets and display fire support coordination measures. They are also able to digitally transmit (hand-off) this data to supporting arms elements and CAS aircraft, shortening mission response time and enhancing target location accuracy and friendly force deconfliction. Operators can designate targets for laser-seeking Precision Guided Munitions and Laser Spot Trackers or generate accurate coordinates for Global Positioning System weapons including Excalibur and Joint Direct Attack Munitions. The primary users of the system will be Forward Air Controllers (FACs), Forward Observers (FOs) for field artillery, Fire Power Control Teams (FCT) of the Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Companies, Force Reconnaissance and Marine Corps Special Operations Command Marines as well as the supporting establishments responsible for the training of FOs, FACs, and FCT personnel.

PROGRAM STATUS

An evolutionary acquisition approach is used for the TLDHS program. Three block upgrades are planned during the program life cycle. Block I was focused exclusively on CAS with the AV- 8B Harrier and F/A-18 Hornet, and 137 systems were fielded in fiscal year 2004. Block II added the ability for FOs to conduct indirect fire missions including Naval Gunfire through Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System, and also added digital CAS communications with the Block 40 F-16. The Block II software also added a target coordinate refinement tool and the ability to view downlinked Rover III streaming video. Initial Operational Capability is planned for 1st Qtr fiscal year 2008.

Procurement Profile:	FY2008	FY2009
Quantity:	100	40

Developer/Manufacturer:
Prime Contractor and StrikeLink Software:
Stauder Technologies, Saint Peters, MO

Military Ruggedized Tablet:
DRS Technologies, Melbourne, FL